BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—From the statistical and other returns presented at the first anniversary festival in celebration of the metropolitan establishment, held on the 16th inst., it appears that from the opening on August 3rd, 1846, to June 12th, 1847, 80,670 bathers had frequented the establishment, of whom 72,810 were males and 7,860 females. The washing was for 82,872 individuals, and was represented by 20,708 women, who may be estimated to have washed 800,000 articles of clothing:—besides 800 daily bathers, 200 to 300 are refused admission from want of baths. Receipts including 1,375*l.* from working of establishment, 5,955*l.* Expenditure, including cost of building, fittings, &c., 6,759*l.*—debt 804*l.* Profit for ten months, 446*l.*—The building in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the tenders for which we lately gave, is to contain 64 baths, and 54 washing places. The unanimity of the rate-payers of St. Martin's in favour of these proceedings, forms a curious contrast with the animosity and ado about the like proposal in Marylebone. It would be rather a sickening process, to detail the bickerings and petition prayers—plus con, minus pro—of late got up anent the Stingoitic project, in which Sir Peter Laurie has taken a distinguished lead on the adverse, or dirty side. The latest move, however, we may state, consists in the retrograde or negative one of "nonconfirming a minute approving of the recommendation of the commissioners, for the purchase of the site of land at the Yorkshire Stingo"—the nonconfirmist meeting, however, negatively promising the possibility of veering round once more, should the offer of government to purchase a portion of the land be repeated, and the remainder be still sufficient.

A METROPOLITAN NUISANCE.—At the recent conference in support of the Bill of Health, the Marquis of Normanby, on the principle that one example was worth a good deal of declamation, detailed a few particulars in the history of one nuisance, viz., the pestilential pool of 700 feet in length and 400 in breadth, which *formerly* existed in Lamb's-fields, Bethnal-green — formerly, he said, because now, although improvement had been brought to bear upon this neighbourhood; although science, skill, enterprise, and speculation had had their share in the changes effected there; although the Eastern Counties Railway had reached Lamb's-fields, and over this pestilential pool thousands were borne upon the wings of vapour; yet, so far from the condition of the locality being improved thereby, it had deteriorated to such an extent, that now the length of the pool in question was 2,000 feet in place of 700! Thus then, while all that science could effect in order to develop wealth was successful, not only was the condition of this place made worse, but the condition of the people who lived there was deteriorated in the same extent. At that moment, he understood that an application had been made to the Commissioners of Sewers for the Tower Hamlets, and that they had not granted it, for removing this very evil, by cutting a sewer of 200 feet. Now, was not this a great shame?

GYPSUM: TUTBURY CHURCH: To the Editor of *The Times*.—SIR: From a paragraph in your paper of Saturday, extracted from THE BUILDER, it would appear that it was not generally known that gypsum when wrought with the chisel would long resist the action of the elements; will you allow me, through the medium of your columns, to call the attention of your numerous readers, interested in such subjects, to some very curious and beautiful grotesque sculptures of animals in gypsum, which form two of the divisions in the great arch of the western door of Tutbury Church, Staffordshire? The church formed part of the ancient priory, and was erected in or about the eleventh century; it is in the Anglo-Norman style, and I think it is one of the finest specimens of that style remaining in the kingdom. It is built of a very enduring stone, and the ancient part (for there have been modern additions) is almost as perfect, and the masonry as sharp, as when it was first erected. The gypsum sculptures above-mentioned are now in as perfect a state, or nearly so, as they were when they left the workman's chisel after a lapse of nearly eight centuries. Gypsum is very abundant in the neighbourhood of Tutbury, the chamber floors of all the houses (with few exceptions) of the town and country around being laid with it.—R. TYRER.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, June 25.—The mural paintings recently discovered in Great Waltham church, Essex, were the subject of some remarks by Mr. Fairholt at the meeting of this association on Friday in last week. Mr. Fairholt had made drawings of them, which he exhibited. He observed, that on visiting the church, which is now undergoing a thorough repair, he found the entire surface of the walls covered with fragments of painting which had become revealed in the process of removing the many coatings of whitewash from them. The most perfect of the series is situated immediately over the arch of the chancel, in a space about 9 feet high by 15 in width; in the centre is a figure of the Saviour, seated on a rainbow exhibiting his wounds; above him are attendant angels playing the trumpet and lute, with the sun and moon over their heads. On the right of the Saviour is a group of six crowned female figures, the foremost of which is regally attired, and has a *nimbus* round the head. This group is in a fair state of preservation, but that on the other side is not; it consists of the same number of male figures in attitudes of adoration, and their costume, in the general style of the drawing, appears to fix the date of the picture to the middle of the 15th century.

IVY ON CHURCHES.—The paper of inquiries to churchwardens, issued by the archdeacon, always contains the question, "Is there any ivy growing on the walls, &c." A rural dean has appealed to the Archdeacon Ormerod, on his primary visitation, to consider before he issues his fiat for the removal of this ornament of many of our churches. He contends that, so far from the ivy rendering the structure damp, and so hastening its decay, on the contrary, nothing so effectually keeps the building dry, as may be seen by examining beneath the ivy after rain, when it will be found that the walls are dry, though every thing around is deluged with wet. And further he contends, that "its exuberant and web-like roots, issuing as they do from every portion of the branches, and running all over the surface on which it grows, bind everything together that comes within their reach with such a firm and intricate lace-work, that not a single stone can be removed from its position without first tearing away its protecting safeguard." In proof of this, he refers to ruins of our ancient castles and abbeys; "for while in those parts of the structure that have not had the advantage of this protection all has gone to utter decay, where the ivy has thrown its preserving mantle every thing is comparatively perfect and fresh, and oftentimes the very angles of the sculptured stone are found to be almost as sharp and entire as when first they came from the mason's yard."

VISITORS TO ROYAL PALACES, &c.—Captain Pechell, M.P., has procured a return of the visitors to various royal palaces, from which it appears that the total number of visitors admitted, free of charge, to see the state apartments at Hampton Court Palace amounted, in 1845, to 160,791, and in 1846, to 170,879. The number of visitors admitted to view Windsor Castle, amounted, in 1846, to 27,142. To the Royal Gardens at Kew, now one of the most accessible as well as delightful resorts to metropolitan residents, 28,139 persons were admitted in 1845, and 46,573 in 1846.

NEW MOTIVE POWER.—Mr. Fox Talbot, we hear, has taken out a patent for a new plan for generating and applying motive power. This he has effected by exploding gun-cotton alternately on each side of a piston. At the bottom of the cylinder, on each side, are two circular holes, in which the explosive material is supplied by a tubular slide. Passing through the cylinder is a platina wire, for the purpose of being excited by the galvanic battery, and thus exploding the cotton.

THE ACCIDENT IN BERMONDSEY.—The remark in our last number in respect of the fallen arch in Bermondsey, has led a gentleman concerned in the matter to forward us proof that due time was taken in the work. The evidence of Mr. Beazley and Mr. Grissell, at the inquest, fully establish the fact that the work was properly done.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the various works necessary in the restoration of St. Mary's Church, Scarborough; the erection of a Parsonage House near Luton; the various works required in additions to Chignal Smealey Church, near Chelmsford; the erection of a dwelling-house and offices at Cuckfield; a church at Kentish Town; and Catacombs, vaults, &c. at the General Cemetery, Hull; extensive additions to stabling at Newmarket; also for the construction of 3½ miles and 5 miles of the Vale of Neath Railway; and for the supply of timber of various kinds, sleepers, keys, &c., malleable iron, chairs, castings, tubes, brass and copper, &c. for the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"P. M." shall hear from us.

"Nameless" is again quite illegible.

"A. B."—Proper precautions must be taken, or it will not be.

"R. K." Falmouth.—We shall be glad of any information.

"Waterhouse and Co."—The letter can only appear as an advertisement.

"G. N."—We cannot reply without further information.

"Sewer Traps."—By an error, not our own, the titles of the two sewer traps described last week are reversed. The first is Mr. Chadwick's, the second Mr. Walker's.

"T. L."—We cannot give the information required.

"T. R."—Ditto.

"A."—Next week.

Received:—"J. R."—"J. K."—"E. W."—"C. H. C."—"R. T."—"The People's Journal," Part XVIII. Edited by John Saunders:—"Wonders of the Wire, a Manual of the Electric Telegraphs," by T. Philpots Gilbert, Paternoster-row.—"Westminster and Foreign Quarterly Review," for July:—"Equitable Banks of Interchange:"—"The Tradesman's Book of Ornamental Insignia," Part II. Orr and Co., Paternoster-row:—"La Revue Générale de l'Architecture," Livraison par M. Cicar Daly, Architecte. Vol. VI.:—"Etudes sur la Théorie des Voutes," par M. Lahure:—"Du Symbolisme dans l'Architecture," par M. Daly:—"Note sur l'Hospital en Fer du Camp Jacob," par M. Normand:—"Weekly Extract of the Scots of Scotland," Nos. IV. and V. Sutcliffe, 63, Ivan-street.

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ALWAYS ON SALE at A. ROSLING'S, SOUTHWARK-BRIDGE WHARF, BANKSIDE, at the Large Wharf, Upper Ground-street, Blackfriars, a large, very general and well-seasoned stock of all kinds of Prepared Floor and Match Boarding, planed to a parallel breadth and thickness, fit for immediate use; also a great variety of machine-prepared mouldings, very accurately finished.

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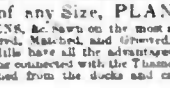

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SIR W. BURNETT'S PATENT for preventing the Decay of Timber, Canvas, and of all Vegetable and Animal Substances.

This process has long been in extensive use in her Majesty's Dockyards—Vide Parliamentary Debate, April 13, 1847. It hardens and improves the texture of wood without injuring its cleaving, and renders it much less inflammable, and entirely so when prepared expressly for the purpose.

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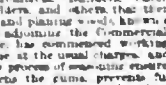
Further information may be obtained and specimens seen on application to the Secretary, at the Offices, 85, King William-street, London-bridge.



WOOD THOROUGHLY SEASONED IN DAYS INSTEAD OF YEARS BY DAVISON AND SYMINGTON'S PATENTED PROCESS.

THE Patent Desiccating Company beg to inform Architects, Builders, Cabinet Makers, Ship Builders, and others that their establishment for seasoning, sawing, and planing woods known as the Grand Surrey Mills, immediately adjoining the Commercial and East Country Docks, Rotherhithe, has commenced working. The sawing and planing will be done at the usual charges, and in the best possible manner. The new process of seasoning ensures the entire removal of moisture, hardens the fibre, prevents further shrinkage no matter how warm the temperature of but the climate, strengthens the fibre, thus giving greater rigidity and compactness to the material, all of essential importance for Sash-sticks, doors, shutters, and similar work. For licences to work the patent, scale of prices, or any further information, address, post paid, or apply to W. H. TANQUERAY, Secretary, at the temporary offices of the Company, 28, New Broad-street, City.

N.B.—It has been satisfactorily ascertained that what are termed two-years seasoned flooring boards, contain from 9 to 10 per cent. of moisture, causing a shrinkage of one-eighth of an inch in the width of the board, which is prevented by the new process.

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